2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1953 MM1 Aden MM1

Foreword

Now at last Hickinbotham occupied a position in which the scope of his responsibilities included the Aden Protectorate as well as the Colony of Aden, for as Governor and Commander-in-Chief he was Governor of the Protectorate as well as Governor of the Colony. It has been thought by some that the term "Governor of the Aden Protectorate" is a misnomer, for it is not the policy of the British Government to govern the Protectorate directly, but to leave the control of its internal affairs to the local Arab Rulers in treaty relations with Her Majesty's Government. Under these treaties the British Government are bound to give the Rulers protection against external attack, and through the Governor of Aden the Rulers also receive, when necessary, assistance in preserving internal security and also advice and financial help. The Colony of Aden is a small, mainly urban, territory of about 75 square miles: the Protectorate is a largely mountainous and thinly populated area with comparatively small fertile cultivable parts and is about the same size as the United Kingdom. The role of the Governor in the Protectorate thus differs fundamentally from his position in the Colony, where he is the head of a direct administration, and the problems with which he has to deal in the two areas are very different.

The Arabs of the Protectorate tribes made a natural appeal to Hickinbotham, as they have done to many other British officers and others whose work has brought them into contact with them and who can understand their outlook on life. In this book he has given a fascinating account of the Protectorate and its people based on practical sympathy and intimate knowledge, as well as an interesting description of Aden Colony and his experience in it in successive capacities. Sir Tom's position as Governor of the Aden Colony and Protectorate also necessitated his playing an active part in dealing with the question of British relations with the Yemen, the independent Arab Kingdom which lies to the north of the western part of the Protectorate, and his book includes informative chapters about this troublesome problem.

It is a pleasure to me to commend this work to all those who seek reliable information about this part of the world and

3:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

very intense, though usually of short duration. The weather during July and August is frequently very hazy, and it is not uncommon for ships to pass quite close to Aden without picking up the land.

Meteorological records are maintained at the European General Hospital and the data are published in the Aden Colony Gazette weekly.

History

Aden has been a place of importance historically owing to its possession of the only good harbour situated on the main ocean trade route between Egypt and India and to the fact that it is easily defensible.

Prior to the discovery of the Cape route in the fifteenth century the trade followed much the same course as the main trade route between the East and the West does today, i.e. across the Indian Ocean to Aden, thence up the Red Sea and across Egypt to the Mediterranean. From the earliest times the great Empires of the world realised the importance of Aden. During the time of the Romans at least two endeavours were made by them to capture the Red Sea trade and they sent an unsuccessful expedition against Aden. The discovery of the Cape route at the end of the sixteenth century diverted the major portion of the trade from the old Red Sea route, and in consequence the port of Aden declined. Aden was attacked by the Portuguese in 1513 and 1516, and was for a time occupied by them. It was captured by the Turks in 1538 and remained in their hands about 100 years until the Yemen Arabs rebelled and drove them out. Aden thus passed under the Imams of Sana' who have never renounced their claim to it. In 1728 the Sultan of Lahej, the Ruler of the territory adjacent to Aden, revolted and established his independence, and included Aden in his Sultanate. The decline of Aden continued until its capture by the British in 1839, when it was only a village of 500 inhabitants. Financial negotiations with the Sultan of Lahej having failed, the plundering of an Indian ship on the coast near Aden resulted in an expedition being sent from Bombay by the East India Company under Major Bailey and Captain Haines of the Indian Navy. The fortress was captured on 19th January, 1839, and Captain Haines became the first British Resident.

The replacement of sailing ships by steam vessels was one of the reasons which led to Aden's occupation by the British, and the revival of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for the town its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since the British occupation the population has risen from 500 to 46,000. The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is primarily due to the fact that it is an important fuelling station, originally for coal and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade route to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's production centre in the Persian

3:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

III.—POPULATION

161 According to the census of 1931, the total (civilian) population of the Aden Settlement was 45,992. This excludes the military forces and the population of Perim.

162 The following table shows the population distribution by race and sex:—

No.	Race.	Sex.	
		Males.	Females.
1.	Arabs	18,388	10,341
2.	Indians (Moslems)...	2,829	2,393
3.	Somalis	2,070	2,107
4.	Indians (Hindus)	1,992	622
5.	Jews	2,114	2,006
6.	Parsis	236	96
7.	Native Christians	339	207
8.	Europeans	213	39
	Total	28,181	17,811

The marked disproportion between the numbers of males and females is due to the fact that most of the Arabs of the trade and labouring class from the interior come to Aden without their women-folk.

IV.—HEALTH

743 759 The staff of the Medical Department in Aden consists of the Senior Medical Officer, a Civil Surgeon, two Resident Medical Officers and eight Assistant Medical Officers. There is a fully-qualified Lady Doctor attached to the Civil Hospital in Crater. The Senior Medical Officer is also Port Health Officer and has charge of the European General Hospital. There is also a Medical Officer of Health with an adequate subordinate staff.

743 667 741 The two Government hospitals are the European General Hospital at Steamer Point and the Civil Hospital in Crater. The nursing staff of these institutions is maintained from funds provided by the Government of the Colony and the Prince of Wales's Aden Nursing Association in approximately equal proportions. The Prince of Wales's Aden Nursing Association is a charitable organization with invested funds raised originally by voluntary subscription, and the Association issues appeals to the public from time to time to supplement the amount of money available from interest on its investments.

743 759 Two dispensaries in charge of Assistant Medical Officers at Maala and Sheikh Othman respectively cater for the minor ailments of the local population in these districts, and serve as clearing stations

4:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

Military Garrison.

701 The Military Garrison of the Colony is under the immediate command of an Air Officer Commanding and consists of Air Headquarters with its various departments, Headquarters Royal Artillery, 9th (Minden) Heavy Battery, R.A., 20th (Fortress) Company, R.E., No. 8(B) Squadron, R.A.F., a Section of Armoured Cars and the Aden Protectorate Levies. Air Headquarters, the Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers and the Section of Armoured Cars are stationed at Tawahi (Steamer Point), while No. 8(B) Squadron, R.A.F. is at Khormaksar and Sheikh Othman.

There is a Naval Office (H.M.S. *Norfolk* III) in charge of the Naval Officer-in-Charge who also exercises general control over the Naval wireless station at Khormaksar.

III.—POPULATION.

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162 The following table shows the population distribution by caste and sex:—

No.	Caste.	Sex.	
		Males.	Females.
1	Arabs	18,388	10,341
2	Indian Mohammedans	2,829	2,393
3	Somalis	2,070	2,107
4	Hindoos	1,992	622
5	Jews	2,114	2,006
6	Parsis	236	96
7	Native Christians	339	207
8	Europeans	213	39
	Total	28,181	17,811

167 The total numbers of males and females show a marked disproportion, the males being 28,181 in number, whereas the females are only 17,811. This is due to the fact that most of the Arabs of the trade and coolie class from the interior come to Aden without their women folk.

IV.—HEALTH.

744 The staff of the Medical Department in Aden consists of the Senior Medical Officer, one Civil Surgeon, two Resident Medical 743 Officers and eight Assistant Medical Officers. There is a fully-qualified Lady Doctor attached to the Civil Hospital in Crater. The Senior Medical Officer is also Port Health Officer and has charge of the European General Hospital. There is also a Medical Officer of Health with an adequate subordinate staff.

5: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

PART II

Chapter 1 : Population

As far as is known there has been little change in the population since the 1946 census was taken. In that census separate classification was for the first time made of Arabs born in Aden, those born in the Aden Protectorate and those born in the Yemen, as well as the usual classifications. The results showed that only one-third of the total civil population consists of Aden-born Arabs, the actual figures being: Arabs, 58,500 (Aden-born 27,500, Aden Protectorate 6,500, Yemen and others 24,500); Jews, 7,200; Somalis, 4,300; Indians, 10,000 (Moslem 7,400, Hindu 2,000, Parsi 300, Christian 300); Europeans, 300; others, 300.

Races	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Arabs	58,455	38,785	19,670
Jews	7,273	3,816	3,457
Somalis	4,322	2,282	2,040
Indians	9,456	5,113	4,343
Europeans	365	218	147
Others	645	375	270
	80,516	50,589	29,927

Religions	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Moslems	70,163	44,913	25,250
Jews	7,290	3,825	3,465
Hindus	1,957	1,191	766
Parsis	315	214	101
Christians	745	420	325
Others	46	26	20
	80,516	50,589	29,927

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The following table shows the number of persons who entered and left the Colony during 1947:

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

164 165

Causes of Deaths in 1947

Diseases	*Deaths*
Smallpox	—
Malaria	37
Enteric Fever	5
Other Fevers	223
Dysentery	16
Diarrhoea	265
Phthisis	244
Other Respiratory Diseases	240
Injuries	75
Deaths from child-birth	17
All other causes	701
Birth-rate	30·43
Death-rate: Crude	23·50
Actual	18·59

HOUSING

362 There are four types of housing in the Colony:

3421 (*a*) Well-built bungalows or two-storeyed houses of European design, owned by Government or commercial firms and occupied chiefly by Government officials and the European mercantile community.

(*b*) Well-built multi-storeyed stone in lime-mortar structures, owned by the wealthier type of merchant, most of which are owner-occupied.

(*c*) Single- and two-storeyed buildings constructed of rubble stone jointed with mud (clay) mortar. Quite a number of these are also owner-occupied.

(*d*) Single-storeyed "mud brick" buildings. These are situated mostly in Sheikh Othman and many are owner-occupied.

342 [132] All four types have flat timber roofs covered with lime concrete or rammed clay. Pitched roofs are rare, as the average annual rainfall is less than 2 inches, and the roofs are used for sleeping purposes during the hot season.

There is a fifth type constructed of reeds, palm leaves, branches of trees, corrugated iron, and known as *kutcha* dwellings. (*Kutcha* is a Hindustani word meaning "of poor construction".)

362 A slum clearance and rehousing scheme, whereby these *kutcha* huts were to be replaced gradually by mud-brick dwellings with proper sanitary arrangements, was begun under the aegis of the Aden Settlement in 1943, and this policy is being continued by Government. Up to the end of 1947, 80 of these dwellings had been constructed, and a further 116 were scheduled to be begun in 1948.

362 161 During the war and for a period afterwards, for a variety of reasons (principally large military constructional works, increase in the strength

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden M M1

of the Garrison and famine in the hinterland), the floating population increased considerably and in the absence of proper accommodation were perforce allowed to construct and live in *kutcha* huts in specially demarcated areas.

While every precaution is exercised as far as is possible to prevent epidemics, these areas, which can only be cleared by Government building several hundred working-class houses at a sub-economic rent; areas for this purpose are being reserved under the Town Planning Scheme.

The Town Planning Scheme is gradually taking shape, but in the absence of adequate trained staff, the work can only make slow process. Relaxation on the restriction of building by private enterprise has, however, led to the issue of 78 Permanent Building Permits in 1947 compared with 21 during 1946.

The shortage of some building materials, particularly semi-manufactured iron and steel products and sanitary fittings, is still acute and many projects are held up for this reason.

During 1947 the Township Authority was able to embark on two housing schemes.

(1) In Sheikh Othman 40 houses were erected for working-class families. The scheme is financed in part from a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

(2) An area in Crater was planned on which Government intends to erect 36 working-class houses of a slightly better type and in which 86 plots were made available for owner-occupiers to erect houses for themselves, a standard plan having been drawn up and approved by the Township Authority so that building could be done as cheaply as possible. Both Township Authorities of Aden and Sheikh Othman set up permanent Housing Committees whose functions are to allocate all houses erected by Government other than houses erected specifically for occupation by Government employees. The Committee set up in the Fortress Area decided on the allocation of plots referred to above on which houses were to be erected by private enterprise. As town planning legislation has not yet been enacted, there has been some delay in making available plots of land in the Fortress Area on which better-class houses could be erected by private enterprise on any substantial scale. Residential building has been confined mainly to reconstruction or adding storeys to existing houses.

In addition, private building was encouraged where possible.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF

There are no social insurance schemes in Aden Colony.

A Government social welfare organisation is being built up gradually, but has been handicapped through lack of staff. A Poor Relief Committee, financed partly through public subscriptions, but notably through

6:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden M M1

Training

759 This year has seen a considerable extension of facilities for training. One Senior Assistant Medical Officer was absent on study leave for the greater part of the year to take a post-graduate course. He has since obtained the F.R.F.P.S. (Glasgow). One Arab student proceeded to Birmingham University to take a medical course. Two hospital assistants were sent to the United Kingdom for three years' training as male nurses.

One hospital assistant was enrolled at a London hospital for one year's training as laboratory technician.

One Sanitary Inspector proceeded to Bombay to take a six-month course of training prior to examination for the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

•161 *Vital Statistics*: 1948

163 165

Population—1946 Census	82,359
Births	2,192
Birth-rate	26·61 per thousand
Deaths	1,360 (338 non-residents)
Death-rate	20·62 per thousand
Deaths under one year of age	385
Infant Mortality Rate	171·18 per thousand
Still-births	125

342 362 HOUSING

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6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden

of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for Aden its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since British occupation, the civil population excluding military has risen from 500 to 80,516 (according to the census taken in October, 1946). The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is based on the fact that it is a fuelling-station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade route to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's production centre in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Ethiopia, Somaliland and Africa.

Perim Island was first occupied by the French in 1738. In 1799 the British took formal possession, but evacuated the island in the same year. It was later reoccupied by the British in January, 1857, and placed under the control of an Assistant Political Resident at Aden. In 1929 the Manager of the Perim Coal Company was appointed Government Agent, but, on the closing down of that Company in October, 1936, the Commissioner of Police, Aden, was appointed Administrator of the island. A police detachment is maintained at Perim, and the Administrator makes regular visits from Aden, usually by air.

Chapter 3: Administration

Since 1937, when the territory was taken from the control of the Government of India and put under the Colonial Office, the constitution of Aden has been that of a Crown Colony. The Colony is administered by a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council.

Under the royal instructions, the Executive Council of the Colony consists of the officers lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, of Attorney General and of Financial Secretary and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed by His Majesty by any instructions or warrants under his sign manual and signet, or as the Governor may, by an instrument under the public seal of the Colony, appoint in pursuance of instructions from His Majesty through one of his principal Secretaries of State, or as the Governor may provisionally appoint in the manner provided in the royal instructions.

Whenever upon any special occasion the Governor desires to obtain the advice of any person within the Colony relating to affairs therein, he may summon such person, for such special occasions, as an Extraordinary Member of the Council.

Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 *ex-officio* members, not more than 4 official members, and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. In the past there has been pearl fishing, but this year no pearl fishing contract was taken.

There is a small Police detachment in the island together with medical staff and lighthouse staff.

There is no natural water supply on the island; sea-water distilling plant provides sufficient water for the supply of the population and for the occasional ship which comes in for emergency water supplies.

Up to the end of 1948 Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication by marine cable. The cable became unserviceable in 1948, and it was decided not to repair it. It is likely that communication will soon be established by wireless. A R.A.F. airplane makes a flight to the island once weekly and carries mail and passengers from Aden.

The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari'a code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Qu'aiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

During 1948 the local government of the Colony remained vested in two Township Authorities. The larger is known as the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embraces the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built up township of 21,000 persons, all non-Europeans, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area governed by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket making and lime burning, using shells collected on the sea shore for this last purpose, and who look on the built up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre and the place in which they find their simple means of recreation. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings in the exercise of their functions of superintending various services of municipal character, such as control of markets, maintenance of public health and sanitary

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population at the 1946 census was 80,500. Since then three classes of movement are known to have taken place, though, as no records are kept of land movements, these numbers are only roughly estimated. There has been a substantial influx of traders and clerks, mostly from India, amounting to about 2,000 since the census. Secondly, all the Jews in transit from Yemen to Israel have moved on from Hashid Camp and about 2,000 Aden Jews have gone with them. But by far the biggest factor is the continual movement of Arabs from the Yemen into Aden. Despite good harvests in the Yemen in 1950, the security, the greater political freedom, and above all the higher standard of living and the wealth of the Colony attract an average of 100 to 150 persons a week, almost entirely single men, coming mostly to casual unskilled employment at Rs. 1/6/- a day when working, or in some cases to better paid jobs as masons. The continued rise in the traffic of the port and the amount of new building work in progress have also brought labour into the Colony till the population stands at the highest in its history.

The following are the latest estimates by race and area :

	Total	*Tawahi*	*Maalla*	*Khormaksar*	*Crater*	*Sh. Othman*	*Villages*
Europeans ..	500	200	—	100	200	—	—
Indians, Christians, etc. ..	500	300	—	—	200	—	—
Hindus	3,500	1,000	—	—	2,500	—	—
Jews	1,500	—	—	—	1,500	—	—
Somalis	6,500	1,500	2,500	500	2,000	—	—
Muslims (India & Pakistan) ..	8,000	1,000	500	—	6,500	—	—
Arabs	79,500	10,000	6,000	500	34,000	25,000	4,000
TOTAL ..	100,000	14,000	9,000	1,100	46,900	25,000	4,000

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

The following table gives the totals of persons who entered and left the Colony by sea and air. It takes no account of the very large movement by land across the frontier with the Protectorate and the Protectorate's frontier with the Yemen, of which no statistics are kept, nor of the Jewish emigration of nearly 42,000 to Israel (see Part I). Nor is it clear how many of the Arabs who arrive by sea pass through Aden in transit by land to the Protectorate and Yemen.

The rapidly growing demand for in-patient and out-patient care at the Clinic has created a situation which can only be met by providing increased accommodation and staff. Plans to meet these needs are under consideration.

Training

One Senior Assistant Medical Officer obtained the Diploma in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery (London); one attended a six months' refresher course at Edinburgh on skin and venereal diseases; and a third proceeded to Glasgow to study for a diploma in radiology

One female and one male nurse went to the United Kingdom for training. This was the first time an Arabian female nurse had been sent from Aden for training. The total number of nurses now training in British hospitals is four males and one female.

In addition two Arab males were awarded scholarships in medicine and both are studying in the United Kingdom.

VITAL STATISTICS; 1949

Population (estimated) ..	100,000
Births	2,553
Birth-rate	25·53 per thousand
Deaths	1,658 (376 non-residents included)
Death-rate	16·58 per thousand
Deaths under one year of age	413
Infant Mortality Rate (excluding imported cases) ..	158·63 per thousand live births
Still-birth rate	54 per thousand total births

Throughout the period, the Principal Medical Officer, British Forces, and his staff have rendered most valuable assistance in dealing with medical and health problems and this generous and friendly co-operation has been greatly appreciated; and without the skilled assistance of the medical staff of the Keith Falconer Mission Hospital and the Charitable Dispensaries the department would have found it impossible to meet all the demands made upon it.

HOUSING

There are four types of housing in the Colony:

(*a*) Well built bungalows or two-storied houses of European design, owned by Government or commercial firms, and occupied chiefly by Government officials and the European mercantile community.

(*b*) Well built multi-storied stone in lime mortar structures, owned by the wealthier type of merchant, most of which are owner-occupied.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Medical and Public Health Department

647 743 744 The Medical Department is divided into three sections under the control of a Director. The three sections include a Medical Division, Public Health Division and Port Health Division.

The Medical Division is responsible for the curative side and comprises a large hospital of 350 beds and three smaller dispensaries for the treatment of out-patients.

The Public Health Division is responsible principally for environmental hygiene and sanitation. In a more specialised field greater attention is being paid to tuberculosis. It is intended in the future to lay more emphasis on the prevention of tuberculosis and towards this end one of the first priorities is the recruitment of a whole-time tuberculosis officer.

Preliminary plans have been produced for the construction of a new hospital.

759 The following medical staff were in the Colony at the end of 1952 :

	Government	*Mission*	*Companies*	*Private Practice*
Director of Medical Services	1			
Medical Superintendent	1			
Medical Superintendent, Clinic	1			
Surgical Specialist	1			
Medical Officers	9	3	3	11
Assistant Medical Officers	9			
Lady Assistant Medical Officers	2			
Matron	1			
Nursing Sisters	15	2		
Dental Officer (part time)	1			
Assistant Dental Officer	1			
Nursing Orderlies	148			

Expenditure

652 Central Government capital expenditure during 1951 was estimated at £13,000 and recurrent expenditure on the whole Medical Department was estimated at £155,000.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

[161] 362 Because the population is continually increasing, there is still a serious housing shortage and it is estimated that there are 25,000 squatters' huts in the Colony. Delay over the preparation of town planning schemes held up housing development, which is now getting under way. Outline town plans for most of the areas of the Colony are almost complete.

Government has already built 524 working-class houses at Sheikh Othman, with the assistance of a 33⅓ per cent grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. A further 240 houses are planned for the next two years. Several of the large employers of labour have embarked on extensive housing schemes for their staff.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

The climate of Aden Colony is not unhealthy, though the heat and humidity are trying between April and October. During the north-east monsoon—that is, between the latter part of October and April—the climate is generally cool and pleasant. During the south-west monsoon—that is, in July and August—strong winds prevail which give some relief from the damp airless heat of May, June and September. Sand storms are apt to occur in the months of June, July and August. These come from a northerly direction, usually a short time before sunset, and are very intense, though of short duration. The weather during July and August is frequently very hazy, and it is not uncommon for ships to pass quite close to Aden without picking up the land.

The rainfall is extremely scanty, and in some years non-existent, but as much as eight inches have been known to fall in a year.

Chapter 2: History

Aden has been a place of importance historically owing to its possession of the only good harbour situated on the main ocean trade-route between Egypt and India and to the fact that it is easily defensible. Before the discovery of the Cape route in the fifteenth century, the trade followed much the same course as the main trade-route between the East and West does today, across the Indian Ocean to Aden, thence up to the Red Sea and across Egypt to the Mediterranean. There can be little doubt that in Roman and earlier times Aden was a port of considerable significance, although its relative importance compared with other towns on the Arabian coast is not at present known. The discovery of the Cape route diverted the major portion of the trade from the old Red Sea route, and in consequence the port of Aden declined. Aden was attacked by the Portuguese in 1513 and 1516, captured by the Turks in 1538 and remained in their hands about 100 years, when the Yemen Arabs rebelled and drove the Turks out; Aden thus came for a period under the Imams of Sana. In 1728 the Sultan of Lahej, the ruler of the territory adjacent to Aden, revolted and established his independence, and included Aden in his sultanate.

The decline of Aden continued until its capture by the British in 1839, when its village consisted of 500 inhabitants. The plundering of an Indian ship on the coast near Aden led to the capture of Aden by a successful expedition sent from Bombay by the East India Company under Major Bailey and Captain Haines of the Indian Navy. The latter became the first Resident. The need to establish coaling-stations on trade-routes because of the replacement of sailing-ships by steamers was one of the reasons which led to the occupation of Aden by the British. The revival of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for Aden its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since British occupation, the civil population excluding military has risen from 500 to 300,000 (according to the latest estimate).

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

504 131 439 The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is based on the fact that it is a refuelling station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade routes to the oil companies' production centres in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused a general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Ethiopia, Somaliland and the African coast.

175 631 Perim Island was first occupied by the French in 1738. In 1799 the British took formal possession, but evacuated the island in the same year. It was later reoccupied by the British in January, 1857, and placed under the control of an Assistant Political Resident at Aden. In 1929 the Manager of the Perim Coal Company was appointed Government Agent, but on the closing down of that Company in October, 1936, the Commissioner of Police, Aden, was appointed Administrator of the island. A police detachment is maintained at Perim, and the Administrator makes regular visits from Aden.

Chapter 3: Administration

642 643 645 Since 1937, when the territory was taken from the control of the Government of India and put under the Colonial Office, the constitution of Aden has been that of a Crown Colony. The Colony is administered by a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council.

Under the Royal Instructions, the Executive Council of the Colony consists of the officers lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, of Attorney General and of Financial Secretary and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed by Her Majesty by any instructions or warrants under her sign manual and signet, or as the Governor may, by an instrument under the public seal of the Colony, appoint in pursuance of instructions from Her Majesty through one of her principal Secretaries of State, or as the Governor may provisionally appoint in the manner provided in the Royal Instructions.

Whenever upon any special occasion the Governor desires to obtain the advice of any person within the Colony relating to affairs therein, he may summon such person, for such special occasions, as an extraordinary Member of the Council.

646 Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, four *ex officio* members, not more than four official members and not more than eight unofficial members.

161 226 625 659 Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. There is a small police detachment in the island together with medical and lighthouse staff.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1964 Mall Aden

Up to the end of 1948, Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication with Perim by marine cable, which became unserviceable in that year, and it was decided not to repair it. A wireless set is maintained by the Police.

The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with Her Majesty's Government. In both the Western and the Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent.

The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

In addition under the provision of the Kamaran Order in Council, 1949, the Governor of the Colony is also Governor of Kamaran, a small island about 200 miles north of Perim on the eastern shore of the Red Sea. This island was formerly the site of a quarantine station but the station has been reduced to a care and maintenance basis.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are two local Government bodies in the Colony. The larger is known as Fortress Township Authority and the area governed embraces the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population estimated to be 80,000 to 100,000. This area includes the Military and the R.A.F. establishments. The other is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 30,000 persons, nearly all non-Europeans, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area governed includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found small coastal villages whose inhabitants number approximately 2,500.

The Fortress Township Authority now includes three elected members in addition to four nominated official and three nominated unofficial members. At the 1951 elections two Arabs and one Pakistani, who unfortunately died during the period of his service, were elected. At the by-election an Arab newspaper editor was elected. Both the general and the by-election passed off without incident.

The qualifications for a voter are Aden or British birth and two years' residence, or foreign birth and five years' residence. In addition a voter must be a male of over twenty-one years and own property worth *Sh.*1,500, or pay rent of *Sh.*18 a month, or have an income *Sh.*200 a month. A candidate must be of Aden or British birth and possess the qualifications of a voter. At the 1951 elections the electoral roll for the Fortress Township contained the names of 4,930 persons. In the Sheikh Othman Township Authority area the people are not so developed politically and a fully nominated Authority is retained with three officials, one Arab resident and one European resident as members.

The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings to superintend various services of a municipal character, such as control of markets, the maintenance of public health and sanitary services, the maintenance and improvement of roads, the provision of recreation facilities and the control of building operations.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Aden MMI

edge of the Rub al-Khali desert. The depth of the northern frontier from the southern coast varies from 50 miles in the west to 200 miles in the east.

ADEN COLONY

The area of the Crown Colony is small, only about 80 square miles, exclusive of its two dependencies: Perim Island (5 square miles) and the Kuria Muria Islands (30 square miles). The population of the Crown Colony was estimated at the end of 1950 at 100,000, an increase of almost 20,000 over the figure at the 1946 census. The increase was mainly due to the influx of Arabs from the Yemen at an average rate of 100–150 per week, for the most part to take casual unskilled employment at higher living standards and in greater security than in their own country. Some 2,000 traders and clerks, mainly from India, had also immigrated since the census, and in May 1950 new Immigration Rules were introduced to secure preference in employment and housing for the local population, of whatever race. The population of the Colony is approximately classified as follows: Arabs 79,500; Muslims (India and Pakistan) 8,500; Somalis 6,500; Hindus 3,500; Jews 1,500 (about 2,000 having departed for Israel); Europeans 500; Indian Christians and others 500.

From the date of its capture by the British in 1839 until 1923 Aden was administered under the Government of Bombay. For the next five years control was vested in the Governor-General of India in Council. Finally, on 1 April 1937 it was constituted a Crown Colony administered by a Governor who is responsible to the British Colonial Office and is assisted by an Executive Council. Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order of 1944, a Legislative Council was inaugurated in January 1947. It consists of the Governor as President; the Air Officer Commanding the British Forces in Aden, the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Financial Secretary, as *ex-officio* members; four official members; and eight unofficial members, of whom at the end of 1950 four were British and four residents of Aden. Aden Colony also includes Perim Island (pop. 381) which is administered by the Commissioner of Police, Aden.

For local government purposes the Colony is divided into the Fortress Township, with a population estimated at 70,000, and the Shaikh Othman Township four miles away,[1] with a population of some 25,000. The members of both authorities were all nominated by the Aden Government until 1949, when provi-

[1] Shaikh Othman was sold to Britain by the Sultan of Lahej in 1882.

29:Dunn S-4 (1952)1952 MI Middle East
Hadhramaut MM2
Aden MM1.

COTTON IN ARABIA

H 248 136 242

PESTS AND DISEASES

"At first, as was to be expected, the cotton crop as a whole was remarkably free from major pests and diseases, but these are now beginning to appear. Bacterial blight *(X. malvacearum)*, has not so far been evident, the land having started clean and the seed having been introduced from Tokar where the disease is not prevalent. The almost complete absence of rain during the growing season also makes any secondary spread of the disease unlikely.

"Jassids are present in small numbers and may tend to increase, and American bollworm *(Heliothis armigera)* is beginning to appear in quite large numbers in Abyan.

"At Lahej the most serious pests are the red bollworm *(Diparopsis castanea)* and the pink bollworm *(Platyedra gossypiella)*.

H 248

PROSPECTS

"It is unlikely that production of cotton in the Aden Protectorate will ever be on a very large scale as the area of land which can conveniently be flooded is limited. At present some 30,000 acres are in use in Abyan, of which 9,000 are under cotton and the target, when all proposed canals are finished, is about 50,000 acres, with cotton on about 20,000 acres in a good flood year. With developments in other areas the total area under cotton may be extended to 30,000 acres.

H 654 242

RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION

"The Senior Entomologist of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, at the request of the Director of Agriculture, visited Aden in January 1951 to make a survey of the insect pest position, and the Corporation's senior officer in the Sudan is now spending half his time in Aden pending full time employment by the Abyan Board later. He has started selection work on the X1730 A seed from the Sudan and is arranging for regular supplies of pure seed to be produced in the area. In addition other strains are being tested in the variety trials and observation plots, including a strain of Wilds which matures very early and occupies the land for only six months. If this proves successful it might enable a food crop to be grown in the same year as the cotton crop.

"A Colonial office mission also visited Aden early in 1951 to examine the technical, agricultural and financial problems involved and to make recommendations for the development of the scheme and the establishment of any research work that may be needed."

A 101 [161]

ADEN

The crown colony of Aden located on a tiny peninsula on the coast of the protectorate actually dominates the area. Though the colony is only 75 square miles in area it has almost 100.000 people. The port of Aden has been an important trading center since the time of the ancients. This was the crossing point for the Abyssinians as early as 3,000 B.C. It was the final port of call for the Indian traders in the same century. It was also a chief port on the Indian trade route during the Roman times. Today Aden is the principal port and the commercial center for the entire Arabian Peninsula and one of the main crossing points for the African Moslems trekking to Mecca.

A 132 scanty and irregular throughout most of the region. At Aden, it averages about 3 to 5 inches a year, and is normally concentrated in the period from December to April. In contrast, the western highlands receive a summer rainfall which reaches 15 to 20 H 132 inches a year in most areas. The precipitation in the Hadhramaut region does not follow a seasonal pattern: it is appreciably lower and often localized in distribution. Torrential thunderstorms sometimes occur, while sandstorms are frequent, especially between May and September.

POPULATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Population

A 161 162 361 The population of the Colony is essentially cosmopolitan and urban in character. According to the last census in 1946, the inhabitants numbered 80,516, including 58,455 Arabs, 7,273 Jews, 4,322 Somalis, 9,456 Indians, 365 Europeans and 645 of other nationalities. Since that date, the population has increased markedly. In 1950, it A 161 167 563 was officially estimated at 100,000, and was generally believed to approach 110,000 to 120,000. The Arabs are mainly immigrants or descendants of immigrants from the Protectorate and Yemen: in 1946, slightly less than one half were registered as Aden-born. Most of the Jewish community has recently migrated to Israel, with the result that a remnant of less than 2,000 Jews remained in 1951.

A 632 162 The Colony consists of two incorporated townships, besides important military installations. The township of Aden, sometimes designated as the Fortress, embraces all the settlements on the Aden peninsula and isthmus. It had over 55,800 inhabitants in 1946, about 36,200 of whom lived in the main town of Crater and 12,000 in the modern harbor sections of Tawahi and Steamer Point. Sheikh Othman, the second township, had about 22,600 residents. It comprises the town itself, situated on an oasis behind the peninsula, several small out-

ficiency are widespread. Pellagroid lesions of the skin are often encountered among the peoples of the Protectorate. In a survey of 518 Arab schoolboys in Aden township in 1949, no cases of overt deficiency were found, but enlargement of the liver, possibly suggestive of low protein intake, was revealed in 27 per cent.

Miscellaneous Conditions

A small outbreak of epidemic muscular rheumatism, classified as Bornholm disease, was reported from Aden in 1946. It involved 35 persons—34 British and 1 Arab.

Hepatic cirrhosis is one of the most frequent conditions seen at the Civil Hospital. Local physicians have noted that most of the cases come from malarious regions where qat is widely used, but the underlying causes have not been investigated.

Chewing the leaves of *Catha edulis*, or qat, is a general custom in Western Aden Protectorate. The leaf juices contain a stimulant, and habitual indulgence is said to produce loss of appetite, sleeplessness and a variety of more serious nervous disorders. Local observers believe that addiction to the drug contributes to the widespread undernutrition among the people.

SUMMARY

The Colony of Aden and the adjacent Protectorate, on the southern coast of Arabia, have been British dependencies for over a century. The population of the Colony, including the port of Aden, was enumerated at 80,516 in the census of 1946, and calculated at over 100,000 in 1950. The Protectorate territory comprises two administrative divisions—Western Aden Protectorate and Eastern Aden Protectorate, in which the estimated population for 1948 was about 350,000 and 300,000, respectively. The local governments are tribal and diverse in organization, ranging from sultanates to smaller autonomous units. The inhabitants of both the Colony and the Protectorate are predominantly Arabs and adherents of Islam.

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